

**Case 3181*****Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 (Insecta, Isoptera): proposed precedence over *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the usage of the specific name of *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 for an important economic termite pest species widely distributed by man. The senior specific name, *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, has not been used since 1934 while the junior name has been universally used in an extensive biological, systematic and pest control literature since at least 1949. It is proposed that the specific name *Cryptotermes dudleyi* be given precedence over *Calotermes jacobsoni*.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; KALOTERMITIDAE; *Cryptotermes*; *Cryptotermes dudleyi*; *Cryptotermes jacobsoni*; termites.

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1. Holmgren (1913a, p. 48) described the species *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni* from Java in a general study of termites from the Oriental region; the date of publication of 23 May is given on p. 276 of the paper. The following month, on 30 June, Holmgren (1913b, p. 14) repeated the description and referred to it as a new species, even though the name had been made available in his earlier article.

2. Banks (1918, p. 660, pl. 51, fig. 3) described and illustrated the kalotermitid species *Cryptotermes dudleyi* in a faunal revision of the termites of Panama and British Guiana.

3. From 1918 through 1934 the specific names *C. jacobsoni* and *C. dudleyi* were both in use. In 1934 Kemner (p. 49) made the last mention of *C. jacobsoni* as a valid species in a study of termites from Java and Celebes.

4. Snyder (1949, p. 41), in a general catalog and classification of the termites of the world, recognized that the species proposed by Banks (1918) and Holmgren (1913a, b) were conspecific, along with a few more junior species which had been established by other authors. Snyder brought the names together for the first time but, without explanation, chose the junior name, *C. dudleyi*, as the valid name for the species; the reason may have been the growing usage of this name in the termite literature in comparison with *C. jacobsoni*.

5. Since the recognition of the synonymy in 1949, all subsequent authors have followed Snyder's precedence and used the name *C. dudleyi* for this important and widely distributed economic pest species. All modern catalogs and revisions of the genus have either listed *C. jacobsoni* as a junior synonym of *C. dudleyi* despite its precedence (e.g., Araujo, 1977, pp. 13–14; Constantino, 1998, pp. 143–144) or overlooked the senior name altogether (e.g., Chhotani, 1970; Bacchus, 1987; Watson, Miller & Abbey, 1998). The name *C. dudleyi* has been widely used during the past 53 years in the literature of economic entomology, termite systematics and biology, and pest control (e.g., Harris, 1961; Krishna, 1961; Snyder & Francia, 1962; Gay, 1969; Araujo, 1970; Bess, 1970; Roonwal, 1970; Bose, 1984; Huang, Li & Zhu, 1989; Roonwal & Chhotani, 1989).

6. To use the name *C. jacobsoni* in place of its junior synonym *C. dudleyi* would bring about a change in a widely used name for a regularly encountered economic pest. The resurrection of the long forgotten name *C. jacobsoni* would unnecessarily create confusion and loss of continuity in a growing economic and agricultural literature and would promote nomenclatural instability. Presently preparing a new catalog and classification of the world's termites, we propose that the name *C. dudleyi* should be given precedence over *C. jacobsoni*, although the latter name would remain available for any isopterist who may in the future consider the two to represent separate species.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, precedence over the name *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913, as published in the binomen *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) jacobsoni*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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